

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

FIRST AID IN ILLNESS AND INJURY. By JAMES E. PILCHER, M.D.,
PH.D., Captain in the Medical Department of the United States
Army. Revised edition, with 176 illustrations; 322 pages.
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1894.

Among the many "first aid" books which have appeared within recent years, this book by Dr. Pilcher may well take first rank, not only by reason of the scientific information which it contains, but because of the accurate, concise, and simple way in which the author writes. Many books, similar in character, contain so many Latin phrases and technical expressions that the layman who attempts to read them, becomes discouraged at the outset of his studies; this little volume, on the contrary, is singularly free from such bugbears, and may be read with pleasure and profit by any one.

The book is "comprised in a series of chapters on the human machine, its structure, its implements of repair, and the accidents and emergencies to which it is liable." The groups into which these chapters naturally arrange themselves form the four parts of the book.

Part I treats of "The Construction of the Human Machine." The covering,—the skin, the padding,—the fat, the framework,—the bones, the hinges,—the joints, and the various other systems of anatomical apparatus is each made the subject of a chapter. The essential facts of this abbreviated anatomy are described clearly and concisely; important details are also given, but printed in smaller type; this plan of differentiation is used throughout the book.

"Germs, their Action and its Control," is the title of the opening chapter of Part II, which is devoted to the implements of repair. Asepsis and antisepsis are clearly explained, and their value is em-

phasized. Since "first aid" dressing-packets are now to be had, ready for use, the importance of being able to use them intelligently, and in such a way as to utilize their benefits is manifest. Knots, bandages, dressings, and applications are described in the succeeding chapters of this part of the work. The paragraphs devoted to the triangular bandage and its use are profusely illustrated, and compare very favorably with von Esmarch's own book on the subject. The roller bandage is also described, but "as the triangular bandage is better adapted to the non-professional hand, greater prominence has been given to it in this work."

In the third portion of the book is discussed the subjects of emergencies and accidents, and their treatment. This is, of course, the kernel of the nut, and here the original work of the author appears to the best advantage. The opening chapter gives many valuable suggestions on how to act at first. Following this, all of the usual forms of injuries are discussed, and the chapters devoted to the treatment of bleeding and of fractures are especially commendable. The chapter upon the emergencies of the battle-field, and the various forms of medical relief provided during actual hostilities, is of value to military readers. They will be interested, too, in the Hospital Corps Drill Regulations, which are reprinted entire as authorized by the Secretary of War.

Part IV, the "Care of the Human Machine," is a short chapter containing some good sanitary suggestions for the regulation of ventilation, disinfection, deodorization, cleanliness, clothing, and food.

The illustrations of the book are numerous and well executed. There are a number of full-page plates, showing the nerves, muscles, arteries, and veins of the body, the last two mentioned being colored. The numerous photographic reproductions of soldiers, illustrating the use of apparatus or treatment, give to the book quite a military air.

The aims of this contribution to the literature of the subject are: (1) To strip the subject as far as possible of technicality; (2) to avoid dwelling upon procedures requiring medical experience for their application; (3) to make a distinction between essential points and

details, which, while valuable, might be omitted without damage. That Dr. Pilcher has succeeded in his endeavor his readers will bear witness.

The fact that one edition of the book has become exhausted shows that it is appreciated by those who have occasion to use such a work. Teachers in both civil and military circles who wish for a small but comprehensive book of reference as a basis for their instruction, and for recitation purposes, will find Dr. Pilcher's book well adapted to their needs. It has already been recommended as the standard text-book in many "red cross" societies, and by regimental surgeons who are engaged in organizing and instructing ambulance corps in their respective commands. The book is so small that it can easily be carried in the pocket or knapsack.

H. P. DE FOREST.

LA MOELLE ÉPINIÈRE ET L'ENCÉPHALE, avec applications physiologiques et médico-chirurgicales, et suivis d'un Aperçu sur la Physiologie de l'Esprit, par CH. DEBIERRE, professeur d'anatomie à la Faculté de Médecine de Lille. Royal 8vo, 450 pages; with 242 illustrations in black and in colors, and one chromolithogravure. Paris: Félix Alcan, Editor.

Debierre, who is professor of anatomy at the medical school at Lille, has already written a general descriptive anatomy, and the present volume takes up in detail the structure of the spinal cord and of the brain. The lectures of the author at the medical school have served as the basis upon which the present work has been developed, and the book is now presented to the medical world as, in a measure, a digest of these studies, modified and adapted to their new purpose.

The author has not confined himself to macroscopic anatomy alone; the histology, physiology, embryology, and morphology of the structures are also given, with their relationship to one another. These and similar studies upon corresponding foetal parts are com-